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BOOK REVIEWS AND NOTES.

LIFE IN THE MAKING. By *Loren B. MacDonald.* Boston: Sherman, French & Company, 1911. Pp. 223. Price \$1.20 net.

The author, who is a disciple of William James, endeavors to establish religion on the basis of pragmatism. He calls his effort in a subtitle "An Approach to Religion Through the Methods of Modern Pragmatism." In the foreword Mr. MacDonald says:

"That religion bears some message of supreme value to human life is an assumption, more or less explicit, in all the great historic faiths. It has been taken for granted that in some way or other man's life on earth is safer, worthier, happier with religion than without it. All the more unfortunate it seems, therefore, that this desirable treasure should have been offered to man at the price of an intellectual sacrifice which he is sometimes not willing to make. Must the only entrance to a temple so beautiful and inspiring always be that of some difficult creed or doctrine? Shall man forever be expected to perform some strenuous, and to many, impossible, mental feats in the form of belief and assent before he can enter in and enjoy its harmonies? He is not called upon to yield that intellectual tribute at the shrine of other great emotional or spiritual interests. Art and music, for instance, do not demand any humiliation on the part of reason and intelligence before they come with their blessed ministry to human needs. Why should not the religious interest, supposed to be of far more significance to life than these, offer its ministry on terms equally acceptable?"

His relation to pragmatic philosophers he expresses thus:

"In a humble, but earnest attempt to depict such a pragmatic form of religion in the following pages the author does not wish to involve any one else in whatever misrepresentations or logical defects of which the attempt may be guilty. While acknowledging his indebtedness to the chief expounders of philosophical pragmatism, and especially to Prof. William James, at whose feet, both in college and out of it, it has been his good fortune to sit as a humble learner, he does not claim their authority for more than the bare suggestions of the opinions here expressed."

The chapters of the book are naturally more sermons than expositions. They are written in a tone of prophetic ecstasy and are entitled respectively *Life Simplified*, *Life Rationalized*, *Life Revealed*, *Life Under Orders*, *Life Shared*, *Life Spiritualized*, *Life Made Whole*, *Life Strengthened*, *Life Creative*, *Life in Reserve*, *Life Re-Enforced*, *Life Triumphant*.

In the conclusion he pictures "the ideal of a church that may sometime be founded on the pragmatic principle in religion."